

Acts Facts

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs...” (Acts 1:3).

The Acts of the Apostles

The Bantu title for the Acts of the Apostles is, “Words Concerning Deeds.” A brief survey of this book will give the impression it is deeds the Lord continued to do, through the Holy Spirit (primarily) and His disciples (secondarily).

In ancient times this book was called, “Acts of the Holy Spirit”; “Gospel of Resurrection”; “Gospel of the Holy Spirit”; “The Acts of the Ascended and Glorified Lord”; and some referred to it as the “Fifth Gospel”.

In the New Testament, Acts is the only book that gives the history of church growth. Acts gives principles that should govern the church in every generation. The *Full Life Study Bible* states, “Acts records what the church must be and do in any generation as it continues Jesus’ ministry in the Pentecostal power of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts tells the story of two apostles and their ministry. Peter preached mostly to Jews and Paul to Gentiles. Acts is the story of the original church. It records how “the Word of God increased” (Acts 6:7). Acts gives insight into church growth dynamics and principles. It also teaches about evangelism, preaching, church life and leadership, the Holy Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit, Apostles’ doctrine, missionary activity, church planting, prayer, role of women in the church, persecution, signs, wonders, miracles, and many other aspects relevant to the church today. The Holy Spirit is mentioned more than fifty times in Acts. No wonder some called it the “Acts of the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit was the source of power the early church had. Jesus had promised such power in Acts 1:8.

We see that the baptism and ministry of the Holy Spirit imparts:

1. power (1:8)
2. boldness (4:31)
3. fear of God (Acts 5:5)
4. wisdom (6:3,10)
5. guidance (16:6-10)
6. spiritual gifts (19:6)

The Book of Acts covers the first thirty years of church history and draws you into the world of the first century church. Some think it would be exciting to go back to the first century.

However, the Holy Spirit continues to move in the twenty-first century. We are continuing to see the miracles of Acts being performed today; even to a greater dimension. Countries are reporting thousands receiving the Holy Ghost in a single service; blinded eyes opened; and people being brought back from the dead.

We are living in a tremendous day of opportunity.

C. Peter Wagner in his book entitled, *Prayer Shield* tells that more than 392 million Pentecostals were reported worldwide in 1991. He claims there has never been a movement that has grown as rapidly as the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement of the last thirty years. He claims that in any large city where they are open to new churches and Christianity that the largest churches will usually be Pentecostal or Charismatic. Of the twenty largest churches in the world with membership exceeding 20,000 in each local church, fourteen are Pentecostal/Charismatic. This shows that there is more opportunity to win souls today than ever before. The world is open to the vibrant, living, Pentecostal movement.

Study Questions

1. What two Apostles are primarily mentioned in the Book of Acts? _____

2. What are some of the names given to the Book of Acts throughout history? _____

3. How many times is the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Book of Acts?

4. How many years of Church history does the Book of Acts cover? _____
5. In Acts the baptism and ministry of the Holy Spirit imparts what? _____

6. What principles does the Book of Acts give us? _____

